AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-28.

Please add the following new claims:

1. (new) A system for acquiring digital content, the system comprising:

a digital-content-accessing component invoked by a selection interface, provided by a digital-content supplier, to receive and authenticate one or more components of the digital content on a client computer, and to store the one or more received and authenticated components in an unusable form on the client computer; and

a license component incorporated within a component of the digital content that communicates with a remote licensing broker to verify that a user is licensed to receive the digital content and that generates a useable form of the digital content from the one or more components of the digital content.

2. (new) The system of claim 1

wherein the selection interface is instantiated on the client computer,

wherein the selection interface provides a description of the digital content; and

wherein the selection interface provides for selection, by the user, of the digital content for acquisition from a remote digital-content vendor.

3. (new) The system of claim 2 wherein the selection interface is one of:

an executable file that displays a graphical user interface;

data received by the client computer that is rendered by a program running on the client computer to display a graphical user interface;

a web page displayed by a browser application running on the client computer;

a text file stored on the client computer that includes links or references to the digital content that allow the user to access the digital content by a communications means including one or more of

an Internet browser,

email,

mail,

telephone,

fax, and

file transfer protocols.

4. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file that, when executed on the client computer, accesses and receives the components of the digital content from remote computer systems.

5. (new) The system of claim 4 wherein the digital-content-accessing component is transmitted from a remote computer to the client computer through a communications medium.

6. (new) The system of claim 4 wherein the digital-content-accessing component is generated locally on the client computer from a component list.

7. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein the digital-content-accessing component authenticates a received digital-content component by generating a message digest from the received digital-content component and comparing the generated message digest with a stored message digest.

8. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one received digital-content component is encrypted.

9. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein the license component requests an electronic license certificate from the licensing broker.

10. (new) The system of claim 9 wherein, when the license component receives an electronic license certificate from the licensing broker, the license component decrypts any encrypted, received digital-content components.

11. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein the license component executes a purchase transaction to purchase a license for the digital content on behalf of the user.

12. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein components of the digital content may include one or more of:

  an encrypted executable file;

  an encrypted data file;

  a user interface library;

  a purchasing request library;

  a security information file; and

  an electronic license certificate.

13. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein digital content includes one or more of:

  digitally encoded executable code;

  digitally encoded source code;

  a digitally encoded video program;

  a digitally encoded audio program;

  digitally encoded music;

  a digitally encoded game;

  a digitally encoded multi-media program;

  a digitally encoded movie; and

  a digitally encoded text document.

14. (new) A system for supplying digital content by a digital-content supplier, the system comprising:

  a server that provides a selection interface to a requesting client computer;

one or more servers that provide, to a requesting digital-content-accessing component running on the client computer, components of the digital content in at least one of which a license component is incorporated; and

a means for providing license information to a remote licensing broker to license the digital content.

15. (new) The system of claim 14

wherein the selection interface is instantiated on the client computer,

wherein the selection interface provides a description of the digital content; and

wherein the selection interface provides for selection, by a user, of the digital content for acquisition from a remote digital-content vendor.

16. (new) The system of claim 14 wherein the selection interface is one of:

an executable file that displays a graphical user interface;

data received by the client computer that is rendered by a program running on the client computer to display a graphical user interface;

a web page displayed by a browser application running on the client computer;

a text file stored on the client computer that includes links or references to the digital content that allow a user to access the digital content by a communications means including one or more of

an Internet browser,

email,

mail,

telephone,

fax, and

file transfer protocols.

17. (new) The system of claim 14 wherein the digital-content-accessing component is an executable file that, when executed on the client computer, receives the components of the digital content from the digital-content supplier.

18. (new) The system of claim 17 wherein the digital-content-accessing component is transmitted by the digital-content supplier to the client computer..

19. (new) The system of claim 17 wherein the digital-content-accessing component is generated locally on the client computer from a component list supplied by the digital-content supplier.

20. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one received digital-content component is encrypted.

22. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein components of the digital content may include one or more of:

    an encrypted executable file;

    an encrypted data file;

    a user interface library;

    a purchasing request library;

    a security information file; and

    an electronic license certificate.

23. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein digital content includes one or more of:

    digitally encoded executable code;

    digitally encoded source code;

    a digitally encoded video program;

    a digitally encoded audio program;

    digitally encoded music;

    a digitally encoded game;

    a digitally encoded multi-media program;

    a digitally encoded movie; and

    a digitally encoded text document.

24. (new) A system for licensing digital content, the system comprising:

a licensing server

that receives and stores license information from a remote digital-content supplier;

that generates an electronic license certificate for the digital content; and

that provides the electronic license certificate for the digital content to a requesting license component running on a client computer that, upon receiving the electronic license certificate, generates a useable form of the digital content on the client computer from the one or more digital-content components received from the remote digital-content supplier.

25. (new) The system of claim 24 wherein at least one digital-content component is encrypted.

26. (new) The system of claim 24 wherein the license component requests an electronic license certificate from the licensing server.

27. (new) The system of claim 26 wherein, when the license component receives an electronic license certificate from the licensing server, the license component decrypts any encrypted, digital-content components.

28. (new) The system of claim 24 wherein the license component executes a purchase transaction to purchase a license for the digital content on behalf of a user.

29. (new) The system of claim 24 wherein digital-content components may include one or more of:

an encrypted executable file;

an encrypted data file;

a user interface library;

a purchasing request library;

a security information file; and

an electronic license certificate.

30. (new) The system of claim 24 wherein digital content includes one or more of:

digitally encoded executable code;

digitally encoded source code;

a digitally encoded video program;

a digitally encoded audio program;

digitally encoded music;

a digitally encoded game;

a digitally encoded multi-media program;

a digitally encoded movie; and

a digitally encoded text document.